



February 27th, 2023

HEALTHCARE & REHABILITATION

David Greenwald, Administrator, Governor's house Concerning Skilled Nursing Facility Funding For SFY 2024 and SFY 2025 Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is David. I am the Administrator, at

Governors house in Simsbury, Connecticut. The facility has been providing nursing home care in our community for 50 years. We are a 70-bed nursing home, and we have 156 employees working at our facility, and we are members of the Connecticut Association of Health Care Facilities (CAHCF).

A Period of Trauma *and* Resilience for our Nursing Home Residents and Caregivers

Now three years into this unrelenting COVID-19 pandemic and public health emergency and I can say that our nursing home, the residents we serve, and our employees, continue to be challenged like in no other time in our history of providing services in Connecticut. I can *also* say that our nursing home is as determined as ever, and we feel that each week we are getting closer to a time when we can say the pandemic is behind us.

Ravaging Inflation, Severe Staffing Shortages is Hindering Admissions, Increasing Labor Costs and Slowing the Nursing Home Recovery

Never before experienced inflation and the ongoing staffing crisis are the top issues that are not addressed in the budget recommendation.

Inflation. We are losing ground and unable to keep up with inflation. Here are the examples of what is happening utilities have risen, heating oil, cost of food. The proposed funding for nursing homes doesn't recognize what is happening on inflation, and we are asking you to recognize the real inflation that we are experiencing in the budget.

Staffing Crisis. The severe staffing shortages our nursing home have faced during the pandemic is not letting up. Here is what is happening. Routinely being unable to take hospital admissions, Paying overtime, shift differentials, increased use of nursing pools, trying to get and retain staff at costs beyond what the state is paying in the Medicaid rates. Our skilled nursing facility needs more resources to boost the pay of our extraordinary employees, but the proposed budget doesn't address this issue.

The resources the state legislature previously provided us to boost staff pay has made all the difference over the last two years, but our employees are losing ground against inflation, just as we are. More funding is needed in the budget to address the unbelievable inflation we are facing and to help us with our soaring labor costs.

Thank you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

David Greenwald
license nursing home administrator